

Those *Commissioners* acted so *vigorously* and *severely*, that most of the *Ministers* in those Counties were suddenly *Ejected*; and amongst them, some that were worthy persons, that by their *Lives* and *Doctrines* were useful in that high *Calling*, and in *Christian* prudence and moderation, might have been reserved until (at least) others better qualified could have been found to supply their Places: But at that time their *Calling* and *orders* were accounted *crimes*; and for small faults done many years before were *freshly arraigned*, in order to their *conviction*.

The *Commissioners* by themselves and their *Agents* had the managing and disposing of the *Tithes* and *Ecclesiastick Revenue* there for three years by that *Act*, which were *privately* let to many of their *relations* at *under-values*; for they posted none of their *Bargains*, nor used any means to improve the same for publick benefit: And for one other year, *viz.* 1653. they continued the receiving & disposing thereof, by vertue of his late Highness Letter.

And it was observed, that many imployed in this Work did suddenly and highly improve their Estates.

And one man before the Wars not worth 500 *l.* hath since acquired above 5000 *l.* *per Ann.*

The 10th Mar. 1651. Complaint of the premisses was made to the then *Parliament* by Petition, attested by many hands of those 7 Counties, who prayed,

1. A supply of their Churches with such godly able *Ministers* as the *Parliament* should approve of.

2. That an exact accompt might be made of that Revenue, which was moderately estimated by the Petitioners at 20000 *l.* *per Ann.* and so much offered the *Parliament* for the same, and good security for the payment thereof.

The *Parliament* referred the Examination thereof to a *Committee*, with power to grant *Commissions* to the Country for the better discovery of the truth of the premisses.

The

The Petitioners could never obtain any *Commissions*, or real *Examination* thereof; at that time *eminent persons* intrusted with the receiving and disposing of that Revenue, being *members of Parliament*: But in stead thereof, all means were used to suppress the same; and in order thereto

1. Col. *Freeman* the Petitioners *Counsel* (being then *Attorney General* of *South-Wales*, by Order of Parliament, and Patent under the Great Seal of *England*, *Habund. donec Parliament. Anglia aliter ordinauerit*, who had done eminent Service for the *Common-wealth*, and continued to this day faithful to the publick Cause of the Nation) was for prosecuting that Petition imprisoned, and after the dissolution of the long *Parliament*, by an Order of a few of the then *Council* removed out of his place.

And to add to his affliction, one *Edmund Jones*, a *Compounded Delinquent* of Record, who had violently acted during all the late Wars against the *Parliament*, and a grand Instrument of the *Popish Party* at *Ragland*, was by the means of the said Col. *Philip Jones* appointed *Attorney General* of *South-Wales* in the place of Col. *Freeman*.

This *Jones* did procure good Bargains from his young Mr. the Lord *Herbert* for Col. *Philip Jones*, who bought several Lordships from him, and was the main Agent and Instrument of the said Colonel in all his affairs and concerns in *Wales*.

Whereas the said *Jones* did give no other *signal testimony* of his good affection to the *Parliament*, then the most inveterate *Cavaliers* in all *Eng.* and *Wales* would do, viz.

To bear *Offices of honor, power, and profit*, and to be in a better capacity to serve the *Malignant Party*: And it is observed, that since the said *Jones* came to Authority there, the most notorious *Delinquents* and *Cavaliers* in *South-Wales* have also been vested with power; as *Sheriffs, Justices of the Peace, Commissioners of the monthly Assessments, &c.* Insomuch that all were fitted to observe the *Arbitrary will and pleasure* of him that recommended them to those places.

2. *John Gunter* the *Petitioners* Sollicitor (a person well affected) was for that cause several times imprisoned, turned out of many several offices and employments, and his very life as well as his estate and good name by horrid perjury endeavoured to be taken from him.

3. Divers of the *Petitioners* being *Justices of the Peace*, and *Commissioners*, &c. were displaced, and the self-endeed complying *Delinquents* put in their steads.

4. And last the *Parliament* it self was dissolved, whereby there was no inquiry or accompt given of this great *Revenue*: And many are of opinion that their dissolution was hastened by the means of persons lyable to accompt.

That the cry of this business ringing loud in the Ears of most persons, (though the poor people still were left remediless) it was so ordered, that a very formal *Commission* by an *Ordinance* from his late *Highness* and *Council*, dated 30 *Augusti* 1654. was procured to *Commissioners* to take the *Accompts* of the said *Commissioners* for propagation, and to give them discharges. And afterwards the same *Ordinance* was confirmed in the last *Parliament*.

What accompt was taken, or discharges given, have not been thought fit to be made publicly known: however the accomptants conceive themselves secure with their discharges. *Against which it is objected;*

1. That *Philip Lord Jones*, being chiefly intrusted with the disposing of the said *Revenue*, and being at the passing of the said *Ordinance* one of his *Highness* *Council*, and thereby in a capacity as well to nominate as approve the said *Commissioners*; It is conceived unreasonable he should have the nomination of persons to call himself and his associates to accompt.

2. Though the *Welsh Judges* (who were also placed with his consent, if not appointment) and some other Gentlemen of quality were named in this *Ordinance* to give it the greater Countenance, yet not any of them were called in to the taking of this grand accompt, nor

was it probable in their *Circuits* they should have leisure to attend the same.

3. This *account* was taken at one time at *Swansey* by four or five persons that were either *subject* to an *account*, as *Farmers* of and *Agents* concerning *Sequestred Estates*, or of near relation and subordination to the said *Colonel*, and very unlike to procure his displeasure by a true examination of those *accounts*.

4. This *account* was also taken on the bare *Credit* of the *accountants*, without any surcharge or examination of witnesses, and in one day; which being effectually done would require some *moneths*.

Obj. If it be objected, this ordinance was confirmed by *Parliament*, and their discharges barr a reexamination.

Ans. *Nullum tempus occurrit regi.* And this *Parliament* may review the *frauds*, *falseties*, and *deceits*, in the passing of those *accounts*, if it shall so appear unto them; And the rather, for that in the last *Parliament*, none sat as *Members* for such parts, but such as were *accountants*, or Elected by the *recommendation*, *approbation*, or interest of the *accountants*.

The 29th of *August* 1654. those *Commissioners* named for *South-Wales* in the *Ordinance* then passed by his *Highness* and *Council* for Ejecting of *Scandalous Ministers* and *School-masters*, were also named by *Philip Lord Jones*, whereof seventeen are those formerly *intrusted* with the disposing of the *Tithes* and *Church-revenue*.

By colour whereof they and their former *Agents* continued the letting and disposing of the said revenue to this day, being full nine years since they were first intrusted therewith; which for that time is conceived to amount to above 150000 *l.* And to this time the respective *Parishes* mustlye unsupplied with *Ministers* and *School-masters*, many of the *Shire Towns*, and many *Market Towns* having no *Ministers* settled to preach the *Gospel* amongst them.

As to the Estates of *Papists and Delinq. in South-Wales*, That for the time the same was managed by the *Com-mittees*, there hath been no true accompt yet given the *Commonwealth* for the same, amounting to a great value; those very estates of *Delinquents in armes* sold by *Act of Parliament*, being surveyed and returned on oath to be anually worth 3654 l. 11 s. 3 d. ob. q. And the improvement thereof to 895 l. 13 s. 1 d. which during the war, and until the same was sold lay under *Sequestration*.

That Complaint to the *Commissioners* at *Haberdaßers-Hall* being made against Colonel *Jones*, and the *Sub-Commissioners* for *Sequestration* in *South-Wales* (of his recommendation) that no due accompt was given the *Commonwealth* of this revenue; The *Commissioners* amoved those they formerly *Commissionated* there, yet nevertheless afterwards gave way for Colonel *Jones* to name new *Commissioners*, and put out three *sub-Commissioners* for *Breconshire*, that in a short time whilst they acted had donbly advanced the revenue there; And to this day there is no true accompt given the *Commonwealth* of this revenue, which as is conceived wil amount to a vast *Summe* of money if duly inquired into.

Forasmuch as these matters were transacted in seven *Counties*, consisting of seven hundred *Parishes*, very remote; and it is impossible that a true and exact accompt can be had of all these revenues, without the *Ministers*, and three or four of the most knowing *Freeholders* in every *Parish* be examined on oath touching the same, which a *Committee of Parliament* cannot have leisure to attend, nor the people brought hither without *Excessive charge and trouble*:

In order to the taking of all these *Accompts*, it is therefore humbly proposed,

I. That none of the *Commissioners of Propagation*, or their near friends and relations that are now members of *Parliament*, may fit in any *Committee* to vote or judge of their

their own *accounts or concernments*, or to obstruct the *effectual* carrying on of this work.

2. That a convenient number of *discreet able Persons* of no relation or dependance on the said *accountants*, may be appointed *Commissioners* for *South-Wales and County of Monmouth* by *Act of Parliament*, or by *Commission* under the great Seal of *England*, or *his Highness Court of Exchequer*, with sufficient power, To send for *Persons, papers and witnesses*, and to examine witnesses on oath touching the particulars following, viz.

1. The real valuations of the *Tithes and Church-livings* and other *Ecclesiastical Benefices*, and promotions in every individual *Parish* there;

2. When every *Minister and School-master* was Ejected.

3. Who received and disposed of the *Tithes, &c.* And how long, and what is become of the *moneys* thereby raised.

4. What *willful miscarriages* and *indirect proceedings* were used in the letting and disposing of that revenue at *undervalues* to *friends and relations*, and what rewards were given for such *Bargains*.

5. When every *Minister and School-master* was put in the roomes of those Ejected.

6. What such *Ministers and School-masters*, and all others the *Commissioners agents* were allowed and payed; And at the foot of this *account* it will appear what *Surplusage* is justly due to the *Commonwealth*.

3. And that the same *Commissioners* may receive the *accounts* of the *Committees and Commissioners of Sequestration*, with the like power given them for that purpose.

4. And for the better and more *effectual* carrying on of this *good work*, that *Council and Solicitors* may be assigned, and a fitting *incouragement* and *protection* given them therein.

Which being granted and *effectually* put in execution, there will undoubtedly appear to be due to the *Common-*

monwealth over and above all just and necessary payments and allowance; above 100000 l.

As to the Peoples civil Rights and Freedomes in those Parts;

It would be almost incredible to relate, and too voluminous herein to insert the many false imprisonments, forcible Entries, partaking in Causes and Suites, protecting and countenancing of heinous Offenders, and taking away of mens Rights and Estates in those Parts, and many other injuries, misdemeanors, and oppressions done, being very grievous and intolerable; the particulars whereof are ready to be exhibited to Parliament when they have leisure to examine matters of that nature, which for the present are herein omitted.

And in truth how can it be otherwise expected, when all these Powers for many years have centred in one Person: viz.

The recommendation and nomination of all members of Parliament, Judges, Justices, Sheriffs, Commissioners of the monthly Assessement, Commissioners of Decimation, Sequestration, Treasurers, Collectors, Excisemen, and all other Officers, Military, Civil and Ecclesiastick; who on the least displeasure given, are subject to be as easily removed, as they were first impowered, which hath been frequently practised in those Parts; Especially those Malignants and Cavaliers in authority, who being conscious of their own guilt and incapacity, are the more slavish and apt to act any thing arbitrarily at the will and pleasure of their Patron.

It is therefore humbly left to consideration,

1. whether any one man in the beginning of these Wars, being not worth in all the world 500 l. could since by lawful honest means acquire an estate of above 5000 l. per Annum.

2. whether it be not fit to enquire how he came by this great Estate, the Commonwealth being in great want of money.

3. whether it be safe for the people, or consistent with the policy and prudence of a well governed State, to continue such a person in such an absolute authority over his Counties, which he hath exercised in manner aforesaid, for above seven years last past.

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